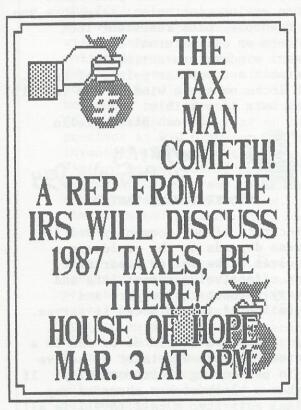
bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news

VOLUME 14 NO. 3

MARCH 1988



PRESIDENT'S GAVEL

You'll notice that this month's ActionNews is a special edition. February's meeting was on security and we hosted the 105 Pct's Anti-Crime officer. This meeting touched a real sensitive nerve and I learned that lots of people are seriously concerned about the safety of their homes and property. I've asked a few members to pull together information on security and I've dedicated this edition to bringing you information on keeping our neighborhood safe and secure; and a good store of value for our huge investment in our homes. I've accepted few articles other than security, but I remind you that March's meeting on TAXES will be very topical for a lot of us who have not yet submitted our yearly contribution to Uncle Sam. Bring a friend, please.

HOW SECURE IS YOUR HOME?

The biggest topic each of us in Bellerose is facing is the security of our homes and families. Most of us think: "I will never be robbed" or "It will never happen to me."
Unfortunately, it can and does happen to anyone. Bellerose is changing in many ways, whether anyone wants to admit it or not, but it is still a beautiful area and therefore attractive to burglars. The good news in this change is that Bellerose is uniting more as a community, the bad news is that burglaries are on the upswing, while

police staffing is waning.

It is all of our responsibilities to make sure our homes are safe and secure. The basic security reminders are simple, but must be followed-through. Most of them cost nothing, or a few pennies a day.

Always keep your storm and inside doors locked; put secure locks on your windows and keep them locked at all times; keep your front and back yard lights on overnight; Don't keep jewelry or other valuables in your bedroom - that's the first place they look!; keep them

WE MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT HOUSE OF HOPE CHURCH, CORNER 248TH STREET AND 85TH AVENUE**8:00 PM**

instead in an out of the way place or better, in your bank safe deposit box; use inexpensive timers to alternate lights and even radios when you are not at home; cut bushes away from windows and walks, they make wonderful places to hide; when you are going away, do not stop mail and paper deliveries. Instead, ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up every day and check your house over, ask him to park his car at your house to simulate someone home. As mentioned before keep some lights on timers.

Homes are broken into in our neighborhood more than we think. Approximately half of all burglaries take place during the day. Statistics claim that only one out of every three burglaries are ever reported. Be sure to report any break-in or attempt so the police have our neighborhood on the map. We compete with other areas of the huge 105th Pct where very serious crime prevails. Unreported crimes hurt us.

In the United States there is a burglary being committed every 8 seconds. In New York state alone, there are over 30,000 burglaries committed each year. DON'T BE ONE OF THEM.

Jean Biancaniello and Rich Hellenbrecht

SECURITY SYSTEMS

At the BCCA February meeting William Capparelli of the crime prevention program stressed that our homes are not secured properly. He also emphasized that the precinct is under staffed and can not be relied on to show constant presence. This fact is known all too widely, so it is up to us to protect our own. The best way is with a professionally installed security alarm system.

Security systems can be as simple as you want and as elaborate as you can afford. The possibilities range from a simple 10 penny nail placed in double-hung window frames to electronic alarm systems installed by security companies. These

electronic alarms can cost between \$300 and \$2,000 (or more.) As you can imagine, there are hucksters who will try to sell you systems capable of protecting the Mona Lisa. Be reasonable, buy what you can afford. Make sure you get references, stress that you want a system that is reliable, maintenance free, easy to operate, but will not set off falsely. Proper locks are another deterrent and your basic defense against intrusion: make sure you have deadbolt, pick resistant lock cylinders on all external doors. Basement windows are extremely vulnerable and popular points of entry. Check locks on these windows and install secure bars if possible.

Jean Biancaniello



Happy St. Patricks Day

BLOCKWATCHERS WANTED

The security of our community and its citizens depends on the residents themselves. The Police Department cannot effectively protect life and property without the support and cooperation of the citizens it serves.

Who is a blockwatcher? He or she is a concerned citizen who takes an active part in protecting their community. If and when a blockwatcher observes any criminal activity, a call to 911 is all a blockwatcher must do. The identity of a blockwatcher is protected by use of an assigned identification number. The blockwatcher will receive professional instruction from the Police Department on what to look for, how to describe an emergency situation and how to properly report the incident to the Police.

Residents wishing to become Blockwatchers should contact the Community Affairs office at the 105 Pct, 990-0290 (Officers Johnson, McIntrye or Capparelli.) The BCCA will have manuals at the March 3 meeting, drop by for a copy.

Eileen Damore

OTHER SECURITY OPTIONS

Officer Capparelli suggested several other options which are worth exploring. Primarily, the crime prevention unit will do a home security audit on your home by calling 990-0290. As time is available, they will do a walk-through of your house and point out problem areas. Also, there is a BLOCKWATCHERS program discussed above and Operation Identification, which was sponsored by the BCCA several years ago. You mark all valuable appliances, tools, etc. with a number that is recorded with the police department and you receive a decal for your doors. Items so marked would be hard to pawn and if found could be traced back to you. We will try to do Op ID again this year or call the precinct at 990-0290 for the scriber, inventory form and decal. This is quite similar to our annual car and bike registration programs, which are scheduled again this spring. Be sure to come down and protect these valuable items.

Other alternatives were discussed at the February meeting including use of a private security agency with 24 hour car surveillance or forming a neighborhood protection program. The security agency will be looked into but last we checked it was very expensive and the neighborhood program would take volunteers scheduled to patrol the neighborhood in cars with radios. We have never before been able to enroll enough volunteers to make the program effective, but we will discuss it further.

TEEN RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Free membership is available for area teens to participate in table tennis, chess, pool and other quiet games, as well as basketball, soccer and body building in a program sponsored by the Little Neck-Douglaston Community Council and funded by the city Youth Bureau. The following schools participate between 7 and 10PM through the winter

and outdoors, with sufficient interest through June:

PS46 (67 AV & 219 St) Mon & Fri. Pasteur JHS (51 Av & Marathon) Fri. Curie JHS (46 Av & Oceana) Tue Wed & Fri Hillside JHS (81 Av & 257 ST) Mon & Wed Ryan JHS (64 Av & 175 St) Mon Tue & Fri

For additional info call Rudy Caggiano at 225-0033.

CHARTER REVIEW UPDATE MEETING

As we all know the City Charter is up for revision as a result of a ruling on the Board of Estimate formulation. This revision could have an impact on the way we are represented before the city. The local Community Board system was implemented in the last charter revision and has been very helpful in giving localities some clout in dealing with huge city agencies. Significant revision of this powerful structure is a real possibility in the November vote.

Several local area civic associations have asked Borough President Clair Schulman to talk to their members at a special meeting to be held on March 15 at 8PM at the Queens Baptist Church next to the Library at 217 Street and 94th Ave. You are encouraged to attend.

SNAPS SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

The SNAP senior center has been in the making for 12 years and is in full operation since June, 1987, located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Union Turnpike and 263 Street. It is a full service center with recreational and social facilities, as well as Meals on Wheels (fifty are dispensed from our kitchen each week) and homemaker services for those who are in need of help. We have a quota of 150 cooked lunches from our kitchen and we have a paid staff to help the needy aged. There are two vans to pick up those who are partially disabled and bring them to our center and to take them shopping on various weekdays.

Although this center was funded to serve people from Queens Village, Bellerose, Floral Park and Glen Oaks, only Glen Oaks residents seem to be taking advantage of it. Consequently, we would like to see more representation from Bellerose. Our telephone number is 470-1200. Don't wait until you are in trouble; drop in, find out about our programs and make us your home away from home. Remember, its your taxes that are paying this bill.

Sun W. Wong Advisory Committee Member



LIBRARY NEWS

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Adult book discussion on foreign affairs - by Alison Lurie, March 24 at 10:30AM
Used Book Sale - March 28 1 to 7:30PM
Income Tax Counseling for older adults - Thursdays thru March, 1 to 5 PM
Amer. Assoc of Retired Persons Drivers Ed Course - Wednesdays starting March 9 12:30 to 4:30 PM
Camera Club - 3/5 & 3/19 10AM til 1.
Resume Writing - 3/17 at 7 PM.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS:

Chess Club - Thursday nights thru March 6:30 to 8 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Picture Book Hour - for pre-registered
3 1/2 to 5 yr olds, Tuesdays at 10:30

AM and 1:30 PM

Toddlers Program - for pre-registered 2
to 3 yr olds, Weds. at 10:30 AM

Junior Book Discussion - for 10 to 12 yr
olds, The 18th Emergency by Betsy Byars,
will be discussed on March 30 at 3:30 PM

St. Patrick's Day Crafts - for K thru
6th Grade, March 11 at 3:30 PM.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Please clip out and hold these numbers:

Emergencies		911
Community Board	718	464-9700
105 Precinct(general)	718	990-0240
105 Pct Comm. Affairs	718	990-0940
Arson Hotline	718	403-1300
Battered women assist	212	577-7777
Bd of Education info	718	596-5030
Child abuse Info	800	342-3720
Dept of Envir. Prot.	212	966-7500
HiWay, Street Emerg.	212	566-3406
Home Energy Assist	212	334-9774
Mayor's Action Center	212	566-5700
Parent Help Line	212	925-8002
Poison Control	212	340-4494
Police Crime Stoppers	212	577-TIPS
Rape Assistance	212	732-7706
Sanitation Complaints	212	334-8590
Subway/bus Info	718	330-1234
Suicide Prevention	212	532-2400
Traffic Light/Sign		
Repairs	718	830-7666
Victim Svcs Assist.	212	577-7777
Voter Registr Info	212	868-3784
Sen. Frank Padavan	718	468-9516
Asblman Doug Prescott	718	229-7744
Colmn Sheldon Leffler	718	465-8202

PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Senator Frank Padavan has compiled a brochure listing the numerous services and programs available to serior residents of New York State. This list is broken down in to Health Care, Financial Assistance, Energy, Nutrition, Tax Breaks, Housing, Life Enrichment, Employment Opportunities and Recreation for Seniors. Included are descriptions of such programs as: Nursing Home without Walls - for those who need care but desire to remain home; Emergency Assistance for Adults; Home Energy Assistance Program; Circuit Breaker and Real Property Tax Exemptions for property taxes; The Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Golden Age Park Passes; Reduced Fares on Transportation and many others. Be sure to contact the Senator's office at (718)468-9516 for a copy of this list.

ROAD WORK

Councilman Sheldon Leffler announced recently that a contract will soon be bid for road work in the Eastern Queens area. Included in this \$9 million project is the impovement of the north side (westbound lanes) of Jamaica Ave. from the Cross Island Parkway to the City Line in Bellerose. We are also attaiting the final design on the long awaited HW463 which will reconstruct Commonwealth Blvd., parts of 248th Street and some streets west of us. A public meeting will be called as soon as plans are ready for that program.

TRACTOR TRAILER COMPLAINTS

More complaints have been received from residents of 87 Drive on tractor trailers left parked on Jamaica Avenue near Little Neck Parkway. These trucks leave their refrigerator units on over night and park illegally creating a hardship on other motorists trying to make turns. The noise from these motors

and from early morning start-up and acceleration must be deafening. The BCCA has communicated many times with the Precinct and several ticket blitzes have failed to discourage these truckers. They are generally from out of town and it means little to them to throw away a New York ticket. We have sent letters also to the manager of the van line responsible for this mess without any satisfaction. We would consider any creative suggestions from any of you. Please drop by or next meeting and let us know how you would handle this problem.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

We have recently increased our ads for local stores tremendously. These ads fully support Action News so that our dues money can go to neighborhood projects. Please patronize the neighborhood stores who advertise here and tell them "you saw it here."



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